



Home Rule and Redistricting

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 **Common Cause**

Holding Power Accountable

Agenda

- Georgia Home Rule Redistricting Provisions
- Best practices in municipal redistricting
- Impacts
- Outstanding Questions

The Basics of Home Rule Redistricting

- Governed by Ga. Code Ann. Section 28-1-14.1 (2019)
- Applies to: county boards of commissioners (159), county boards of education (159), independent boards of education, and municipal authorities (535)
- Local government entities may request that the LCRC draw district maps
- Local government entities may draw their own maps and LCRC must approve

Process for LCRO Approval -

Part 1

1. Entity must obtain a sponsorship letter from the member of the General Assembly who represents the entity authorizing the LCRO to review the plan
2. LCRO conducts a technical review to determine
 - ☐ Compliance with federal and Georgia constitutional requirements
 - ☐ Compliance with the Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 as amended
 - ☐ Whether plan divides current precincts in a way that could compromise voter anonymity
 - ☐ Whether the plan leaves geographies unassigned
 - ☐ Whether the plan maintains continuous geographic features
 - ☐ Any other concerns that the LCRO may determine legally relevant

Process for LCRO Approval - Part 2

- If the plan passes technical review:
 - LCRO issues certification form to local entity
 - Local entity votes to adopt plan and submit to General Assembly
 - LCRO prepares legal description of plan to submit to Office of Legislative Counsel to draft the local legislation

Process for LCRO Approval - Part 3

- If LCRO finds technical issues, it will notify the local government entity and the member of the General Assembly
- Local government entity may choose either to have the LCRO make the corrections or the original preparer.
- If the original preparer makes the corrections, it must be resubmitted to LCRO for review.

Mapping Criteria

Required

- Equal Population
- Compliance with the Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965
- contiguity

Suggested

- Protection of communities of interest
- Prohibition on partisan gerrymandering

Best Practices for local redistricting



Prioritize Transparency

- Conduct mapmaking in public meeting
- Publicize internal redistricting priorities
- Publicize hearings/draft maps through multiple avenues



Provide accessible options for meaningful public input

- Website portal to accept public comments and COI maps
- Hearings scheduled at multiple times of the day/days of the week
- Language translation



Hire nonpartisan experts through a public procurement process

- May include:
 - Map drawing/GIS
 - Voting Rights Act
 - Communications/Outreach

Impacts

- Local entities have a direct impact on daily lives
- Poorly constructed local district maps can impact voting precincts

Outstanding Questions

- Does the LCRC have sufficient resources to draw/review maps for approximately 1000 entities? If not, how will the General Assembly address the need? If experts are hired, will there be a public procurement process?
- What is the timeline? How long can municipal entities expect the review/draft of their maps to take?
- How will the LCRC determine compliance with the criteria, particularly the “protecting the anonymity of a voter” criteria?
- In the event that the LCRC is drawing the map, will there be opportunities for public testimony/review of the map? How will the LCRC incorporate public input? May municipal entities request changes to the maps produced by LCRC?